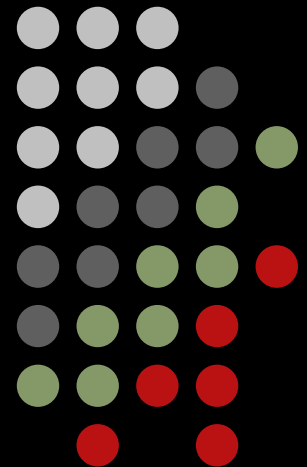


Overview of the *Strategic Plan for Asthma in California*

The California Asthma Public Health Initiative
Chronic Disease Control Branch
California Department of Health Services



Asthma as a Public Health Priority

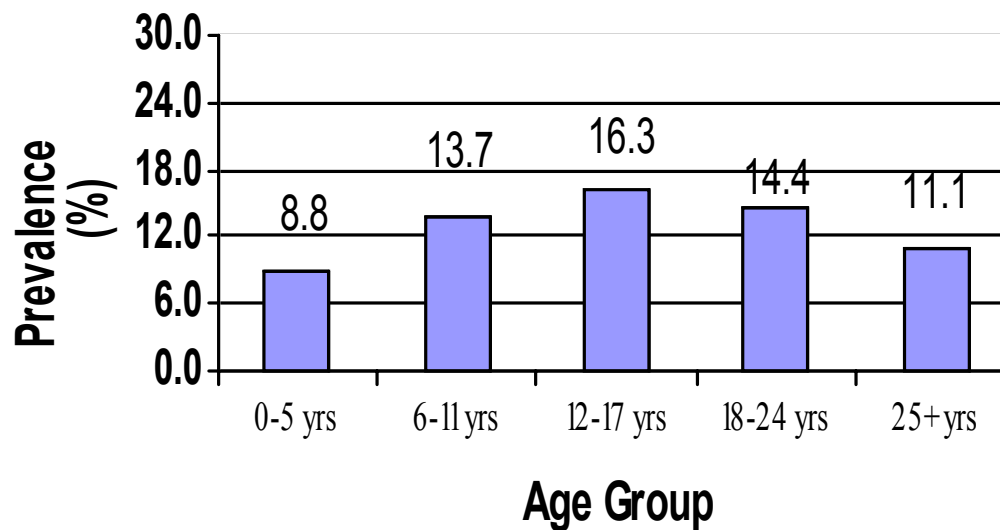


- Highly prevalent condition—especially in children
- Significant preventable morbidity and mortality
- Large economic impact
- Effective interventions underutilized
- Significant disparities in treatment and outcome by race/ethnicity and income level

California Asthma Statistics: Lifetime Asthma Prevalence by Age



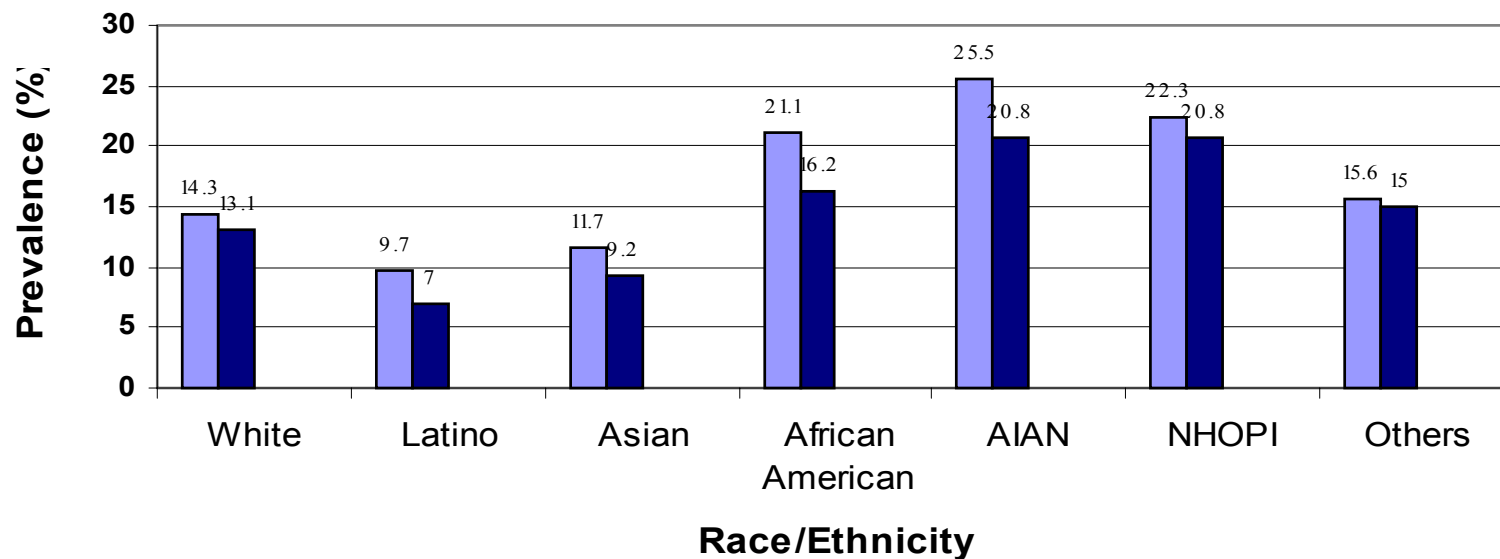
2001 California Health Interview Survey
Lifetime Asthma Prevalence by Age



California Asthma Statistics: Lifetime Asthma Prevalence by Race/Ethnicity



**2001 California Health Interview Survey
Lifetime Asthma Prevalence by Race/Ethnicity**



■ Children (0-17)

■ Adults (18+)

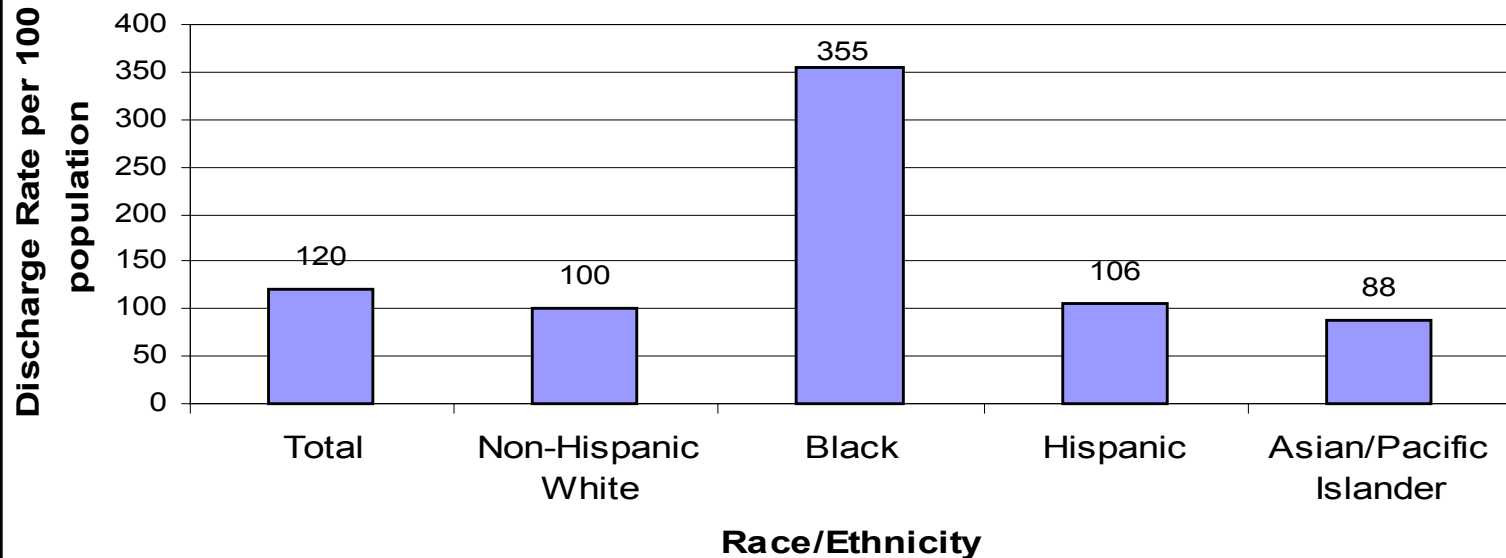
AIAN = American Indian & Alaska Native

NHOPI = Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander

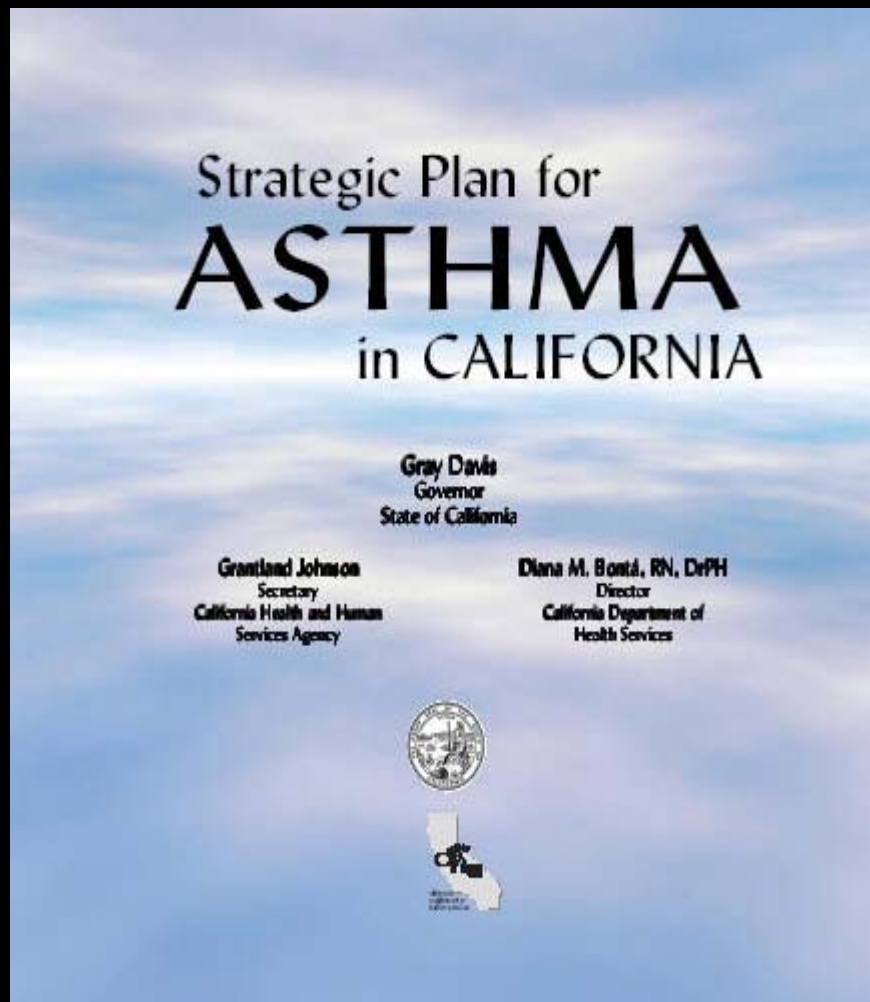
California Asthma Statistics: Hospitalization Rates



Asthma Hospitalization Rates in California, 1995 - 1997
"California County Asthma Hospitalization Chart Book,"
California Department of Health Services,
Environmental Health Investigations Branch, 2000



Strategic Plan for Asthma in California





Development of the Plan

- Sponsored by California Department of Health Services
- Funded by Prevention 2000 Block Grant and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Based upon:
 - “Asthma in California: Laying the Foundation for a Statewide Strategy” --DHS in 1998
 - “Action Against Asthma” --US Dept. of Health and Human Services in 2000
 - Healthy People 2010 Objective Goals for Asthma published in 2000 by US DHHS
- Completed in 2001 and approved in Fall 2002 by DHS Director, Diana Bontá
- Endorsed by Cal/EPA Agency Secretary, Winston Hickox in Winter 2002



Contributors

- Asthma Strategic Planning Workgroup and California Asthma Advisory Committee – initial meetings in Fall 1999
- Over 50 individuals representing Community Asthma Coalitions, Private Foundations, DHS, CDE, Schools and School Nurses, Primary Care Providers, Allergists, Pulmonologists, Pharmacists, Health Plans, Cal EPA, and Academic Institutions



Purpose of the Plan

- Created for use both within DHS and by non-governmental organizations throughout the state
- Provide a framework for evaluating current efforts to address asthma
- Identify 5-year priorities in asthma education, management, surveillance, prevention, and policy
- Guide development of local strategies that target priority areas
- Highlight the need for collaboration and shared information and resources



Ultimate Goals of the Plan

Through implementation of effective asthma strategies and policies:

- Increase public and policymaker awareness of asthma
- Improve the quality of life for those affected by asthma
- Reduce preventable asthma morbidity and mortality
- Eliminate disparities in asthma treatment and outcomes affecting both minority and low income populations
- Reduce the significant economic impact of asthma



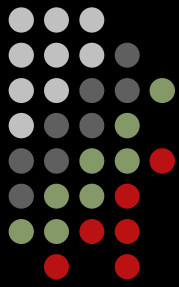
Background

- Asthma in California
 - Morbidity, mortality, disparities in high risk groups
 - Economic impact
- Overview of Current Knowledge
 - Surveillance
 - Etiologies
 - Management and Guidelines



Background

- Barriers to Effective Management
 - Noncompliance with guidelines by providers
 - Inadequate diagnosis and under use of controller meds
 - Inadequate patient education
 - Limited access to care
 - Indoor and outdoor air quality issues
 - Other psychosocial and socioeconomic factors



Priority Areas Identified in the Strategic Plan

- Research, Epidemiology, and Evaluation
- Education
- Treatment and Management
- Secondary Prevention
- Policy

Research, Epidemiology, and Evaluation Goal Statement



“Conduct etiologic, applied, and translation research including descriptive epidemiology, to develop and implement effective asthma prevention and management services.”

Research, Epidemiology, & Evaluation Objectives



- Descriptive epidemiological studies of asthma
- Research on asthma epidemiology and quality improvement measures
- Clarify the relationships between environmental exposures and asthma incidence and exacerbations
- Assess technical assistance/data needs of community partners

Education Goal Statement



“Improve the understanding and management of asthma as both a personal and public health issue for people with asthma and their families, policy makers, and the general public.”



Education Objectives

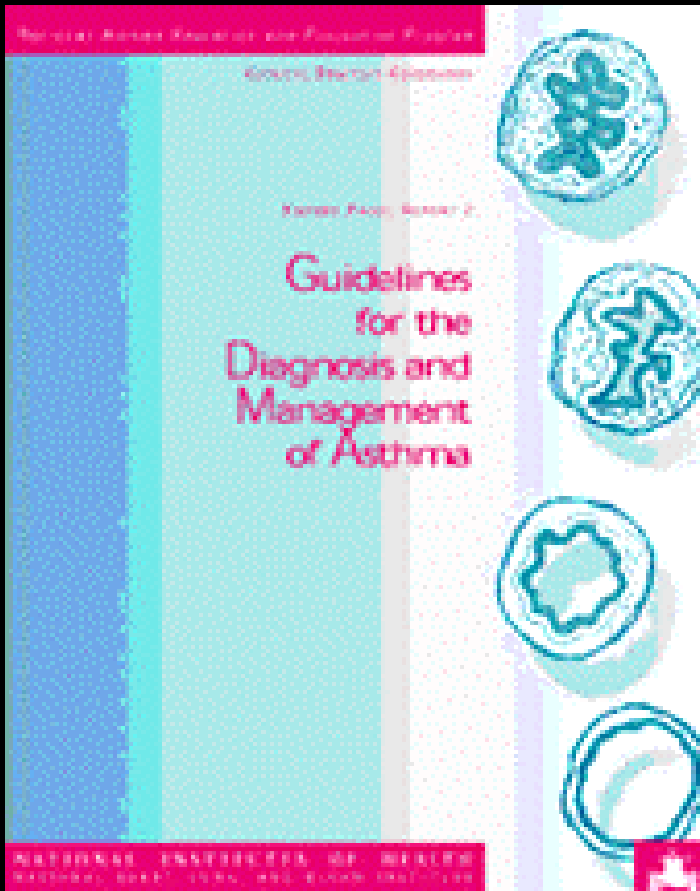
- Improve the development, availability, and dissemination of linguistically and culturally appropriate information about asthma
- Promote evaluation & dissemination of effective interventions
- Implement targeted education to policymakers and decision makers
- Collaborate with the California Department of Education to develop and implement asthma standards and training in public schools
- Internet-based asthma information resources and organization/expert resources

Treatment and Management Goal Statement



“Optimize the diagnosis, treatment, and management of asthma in California by adherence to the current National Heart, Lung, & Blood Institute’s (NHLBI) asthma guidelines.”

The National Asthma Education and Prevention Program (NAEPP) Guidelines



- First released in 1991 by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) in the National Institutes of Health (NIH)
- Revised and updated in 1997
- Updated Selected Topics in 2002
 - Focused specifically on the 0-5 age group

Available at www.nhlbi.nih.gov/guidelines/asthma/index.htm

Treatment and Management Objectives



- Adherence by clinicians to expert guidelines on the diagnosis and management of asthma
- Appropriately prescribed asthma control medications
- Written management plans in at least 75% of persons with asthma
- Annual influenza vaccination in at least 60% of persons with asthma
- Reduce rates of asthma-related hospitalizations, emergency department visits, and deaths
- Availability of prescribed asthma medications for children in schools

Secondary Prevention

Goal Statement



“Identify opportunities to reduce exposure to asthma triggers (allergens and irritants) in the home, preschool, school, workplace, and outdoor environment to prevent asthma episodes or reduce their severity.”

Secondary Prevention Objectives



- Implementation of secondary control measures in the homes of persons with asthma
- Standards to reduce allergen and irritant exposures in child care, preschool, and public school settings
- Reduce the incidence of occupational asthma by 33%
- Collaboration between DHS, Cal EPA, the EPA, and other agencies on environmental policies to reduce the impact of asthma

Policy Goal Statement



“Advocate and support policies that promote asthma friendly communities, especially those that eliminate the disproportionate burden of asthma for people living in poverty and people of color.”

Policy Objectives



- Quality of coverage and access for uninsured individuals with asthma
- Disseminate and sustain effective community asthma interventions
- Infrastructure for coordinated State asthma surveillance, prevention, and control programs
- Coordination between State agencies
- Promote child “asthma health assessment” within the CHDP Program
- Assist development and funding of local asthma programs

Elements of Successful Strategic Plan Implementation



- Recognition that Plan's objectives and strategies are not prioritized or exhaustive.
- Development of local priorities and strategies
- Development of opportunities for Governmental and Non-governmental state and local asthma organizations to collaborate
- Creation of opportunities for State agencies to coordinate and partner on asthma programs and policies
- Development of an evaluation process to assist in gauging progress and adjusting implementation strategies

Contact Information



Electronic Version of the
Strategic Plan for Asthma in California
and other asthma resources available at:

www.dhs.ca.gov/asthma